

Message Text

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14-L
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1566
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, PINS, WB, UR, UK
SUBJECT: SOVIET ESPIONAGE: VYATKIN CASE

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 2072; (B) USBERLIN 2081; (C) USBERLIN 2095

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED REF C, SUNDAY MORGENPOST
(SPRINGER) BROKE VYATKIN STORY AS FRONT-PAGE
FEATURE. MORGENPOST DESCRIBED VYATKIN AS "ONE
OF MOST DANGEROUS POSTWAR GERMAN SPIES" AND CLAIMED
THAT THROUGH HIS CASE, BERLIN AUTHORITIES NOW KNEW
ABOUT ALL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY
INTOURIST IN WEST BERLIN. MORGENPOST WILL BE
CARRYING SERIES OF ARTICLES ON SOVIET ESPIONAGE IN
WEST BERLIN DURING COMING FORTNIGHT. IN RELATED
INCIDENT, WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS CUT OFF CAR AT
CHECKPOINT CHARLIE WHICH THEY APPARENTLY THOUGHT WAS CARRYING
VYATKIN TO EAST BERLIN ON AFTERNOON OF OCT 19.
INCIDENT WAS RESOLVED BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN MPS
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WHO CHASED AWAY JOURNALISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCT 19, SPRINGER BERLIN DAILY MORGENPOST CARRIED SENSATIONAL FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL ABOUT CASE OF SERGEY VYATKIN, SOVIET EMPLOYEE AT INTOURIST OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN. PAPER DESCRIBED HOW WEST GERMAN TRAVEL JOURNALIST, RUDY REINHARD, HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY VYATKIN IN NOV 1972 AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RECRUITED AS KGB AGENT IN JULY 1974. DURING ENTIRE PERIOD VYATKIN, WHO HAS MET REINHARD 53 TIMES, WAS FURNISHED PHONY MATERIAL PROVIDED BY LFV (BERLIN OFFICE FOR PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION). ACCORDING TO MORGENPOST, LFV DECIDED TO BREAK OFF OPERATION WHEN IT WAS CONVINCED IT KNEW ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT INTOURIST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN. TABLOID BZ OCT 20 CLAIMED LFV THROUGH REINHARD HAD BROKEN ALL SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY IN WSB.

3. MORGENPOST REPORTED VYATKIN AND FAMILY WERE IN EAST BERLIN, ACCORDING TO INTOURIST. THEIR WEST BERLIN APARTMENT HAD BEEN CLEANED OUT. ARTICLE ENDED WITH REPORT THAT REINHARD'S LATEST ASSIGNMENT FROM VYATKIN, RECEIVED ON OCT3, WAS TO SET UP PRESS OFFICES IN MUNICH AND BONN, DIRECTED AT CSU. LATER ASSIGNMENT WAS TO HAVE BEEN TO ESTABLISH NEW INTELLIGENCE OPERATION IN FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE.

4. MORGENPOST EDITORIAL COMMENTED THAT VYATKIN AFFAIR WAS MORE THAN ROUTINE AND HINTED THAT MORE SENSATIONS ARE TO COME. OTHER BERLIN NEWSPAPERS OCT 19 CARRIED SHORT ITEM REPORTING CASE ALONG WITH ERRONEOUS STATEMENT THAT BRITISH HAD EXPELLED VYATKIN. ONLY BERLIN PAPER TO APPEAR OCT 20, BZ, ALSO FEATURED STORY ON FIRST PAGE.

5. ON OCT 19 AT 1615, BRITISH MPS AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE OF US MPS WHEN CAR WITH WEST BERLIN PLATES CARRYING JOURNALISTS CUT OFF ANOTHER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. JOURNALISTS STARTED PHOTOGRAPHING SECOND CAR, CLAIMING IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTAINED "BIGGEST SOVIET SPY IN WEST BERLIN."
SECOND CAR BELONGS TO INTOURIST AND WE ARE CHECKING TO SEE IF VYATKIN WAS IN IT.

6. JUDGING FROM INITIAL STORY, MORGENPOST WILL BE DOING UTMOST TO DRAMATIZE AFFAIR IN DAYS TO COME.
GEORGE

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